(d) the reaction of Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINSTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCACATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by UGC, the High-Powered Committee appointed by the UGC under the Chairmanship of Justice K. Punnayya to examine the present financial situation in regard; to Central Universities, Deemed Universities, Delhi Colleges and technical institutions funded by the Government of India and to make recommendations about their financial needs has not submitted its report to the Commission as yet.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

National Steering Committee on Text Books

163. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to elevate the status of the existing National Steering Committee on text-book evaluation to that of a National Commission vesting it with certain statutory powers to guard against the distortion of school text-books by State Governments on communal lines; and

(b) if so, when the National Commission is expected to be set up and what would be the composition of the Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The process of setting up of the National Commission requires a number of procedural steps including consultations with the concerned Ministries of Government of India. As such, it is not possible to give a time limit for establishment of the Commission and its exact composition.

Scheme for Promoting Youth Activities in Tamil Nadu

164. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special scheme for promoting youth activities in the backward and rural areas in the country had been started; and

(b) if so, what is the amount spent on youth activities in backward and rural areas of Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir. A new scheme by the name of Special scheme for Promotion of youth activities among the youth of Backward Tribes was started in the year 1990-91 with a budget estimates of Rs. 1.00 crore.

(b) A sum of Rs. 4.10 lakh was spent by way of grants by the Govt. in Tamil Nadu since 1990-91 on the youth activities among backward tribes.

National Nutrition Policy

165. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the National Nutrition Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Nutrition Policy contains a comprehensive approach to tackle the problems of malnutrition and undernutrition in the country through a set of direct interventions and indirect policy instruments involving long term institutional and structural changes. The direct interventions include expanding the Social Safety Net, Fortification of essential foods, popularisation of low cost nutritious food and Control of Micro-Nutrient deficiencies amongst vulnerable groups. The indirect policy instruments are mainly aimed at provding food security, improving the dietary pattern through production and demonstration, improving the purchasing power and Public Distribution System, improving the status of women, ensuring enhanced community participation ond developing the nutritional surveillance system.

An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee under the chairpersonship of Secretary (WCD) has already been constituted with representatives of concerned sectoral Ministries and experts on Nutrition as Members for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of National Nutrition Policy. The concerned sectoral Central Ministries have been requested for setting up of Special Working Groups in their respective Departments for analysing the nutritional considerations and relevance in their Sectoral Policies. Planning Commission has also been requested for setting up National Nutrition Council. A request has also been made to the State Governments for setting up of State Level Apex Council with Chief Minister as its President and for setting up of special working groups in the related State Departments for monitoring the National Nutrition Policy.

Grants to Indian Council of Child Welfare

166. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the grants given to the Indian Council of Child Welfare during each of the last three years;

(b) what is the number of projects undertaken by the organisation during the above period;

(c) whether any complaint has been received regarding misutilisation of funds by the organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) and (b) Details of grants given for the different projects/schemes being implemented through the Indian Council of Child Welfare, New Delhi for the last three years are given in Statement, (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.